

**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012
AT 5:30 PM AT TOWN HALL**

Called to order at 5:30 PM

Present: Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen

Dept. Heads present: Keith Sowl, Jen Croonborg Croonborg-Murphy

Public Present: Mike Starck, Nick Nelson, Linda Fuller, Glenn Carlson, Charlie Brummer, Nick Van Der Puy

I. Public Comment

Keith Sowl voiced his concern about Ashland County Housing currently being occupied by non-Islanders when many Islanders need it.

Mike Starck offered a ride to anyone going to the Legislative Hearing regarding the Penokee Mine Project in Hurley, WI, on January 11, 2012.

II. Vouchers approved by motion in the amount of \$48,096.44. BF/JP 5A MC

III. Alternative Claims December, 2011, approved by motion in the amount of \$195,349.71 BF/JP 5A MC

IV. Treasurer's Report dated 12/31/11 approved by motion showing amounts as follows: cash balance of \$378,302.70; checking account balance of \$307,017.82; total balance of \$2,017,971.97 BF/LW 5A MC

V. Minutes

A. STBM 12/5/11 approved by motion as presented: BF/JP 5A MC

B. RTBM 12/13/11 approved by motion as corrected: BF/JP 4A 1 Ab [HR not at that meeting] MC

C. RTBM 12/27/11: approved by motion as presented BF/HR 5A MC

VI. Public Works

A. Roads

1. Town Foreman's Report dated 12/10/11-1/6/12 placed on file by unanimous consent. Ham Ross asked about the progress of the Big Bay Town Park improvement project. Keith Sowl responded that progress there is waiting for water quality and storm water permits. Sowl also said that he will be reviewing the possibility of a mound system.

2. Griggs Approach: Amendment to Professional Service Agreement with Chequamegon Bay Engineering: signature of Town Chair authorized by motion: JP/BF 4A 1 Ab [HR] MC [Project description: Site Survey & Design of Improvements at Griggs Approach. Project #11-129. Amended contract: \$11,672.80 reflecting removal of the Pier Design and Bid Documents.

3. Request to purchase Ashland Cty. Truck #54: request granted [by motion] in the amount of \$8750.00. BF/JP 5A MC.

B. MRF

1. MRF Supervisor's Report dated 1/7/12 placed on file by unanimous consent

C. Parks

1. Request from Kurt Goodermote RE: Big Bay Town Park event: approved by motion to block Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th 2012 [from the reservation system] and charge this group the same amount as in 2011 [\$530 for two nights] HR/BF 5A MC

2. Advertising in *Lake Superior Magazine* for Big Bay Town Park: declined by motion for being too expensive: JP/HR 5A MC

D. Harbors

1. Breakwall Management & Signage: Foreman Sowl is putting together a meeting on January 17, 2012, of DNR personnel who help may be able to help with breakwall management and harbor ordinance development.

2. Letter from Glen Nekvasil, Lake Carriers' Association RE: dredging of harbors along Lake Superior: discussion regarding what agency dredges the harbor in La Pointe. Beth Fischlowitz suggested supporting the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force. Motion to send the letter supporting S. 412[as

suggested by the Task Force] to The Honorable Herb Kohl & The Honorable Ron Johnson, United States Senate. BF/JP 5A MC

VII. Police

A. Police

1. Police Chief's Report for December, 2011, placed on file by unanimous consent. The Board expressed its appreciation for the Chief's inclusion of a sample citation and the help it will provide when drafting ordinances.

VIII. Emergency Services

A. Fire Department

1. Fire Chief's Report [postponed from December 27, 2011] for November, 2011, placed on file by unanimous consent.

B. Ambulance Service

1. Ambulance Director's Report December, 2011, placed on file by unanimous consent.

IX. Library

A. Library Board Minutes [postponed from December, 2011] dated 12/12/11 placed on file by unanimous consent.

X. Committees

A. Zoning

1. Zoning Administrator's Report December, 2011: Report dated 12/13/11 placed on file by unanimous consent. The Zoning Administrator submitted corrections to this report that could not be considered due to not having been placed on the agenda. These corrections will be addressed at the Regular Town Board Meeting on 1/24/12.

2. Zoning Administrator's Annual Report 2011: postponed till the Regular Town Board Meeting on 1/24/12.

XI. Town Hall Administration

A. Monthly Budget Report December 2011 placed on file by unanimous consent.

B. Resolution #2012-0110 Penokee Mine Resolution [Version A & B]: much discussion regarding the language of the resolution: Ham Ross stated that he expects Gogebic Taconic to act responsibly. Nick Van Der Puy described the Mesabi Range [mined area of Northern Minnesota] as a "moonscape." Linda Fuller quoted from research that she's done regarding the definition of "responsible mining." Beth Fischlowitz stated that she is troubled by the politics of the issue. Jim Patterson suggested compromise wording as follows :

"Recognizing that given the historical environmental safety record of metallic mining companies and the negative impact on the land and the water, ~~prohibits said companies from conducting mining operations in sensitive freshwater regions in a responsible fashion.~~

Therefore be it resolved that the Town Board of La Pointe, Wisconsin, in its capacity to stand independent of other county and regional entities, hereby oppose(s) ~~the proposed Penokee Mine as it would cause any mining operation that could cause~~ irreparable and long-term damage to the future security of the Chequamegon Bay area and its freshwater heritage; and through this opposition, supports the preservation of a clean and healthy Lake Superior and its tributaries that will continue to sustain future generations of La Pointe residents and their neighbors and their families.

Motion to adopt Resolution #2012-0110 as amended: JP/HR & BF 5A MC

C. General Code Supplementation Schedule: at the Clerk's suggestion, newly adopted ordinances will be sent to General Code for addition to the Code Book on a twice-yearly schedule [January 20th and July 20th of each year] commencing January January 20, 2012.

D. Ordinance #2012-01 Prohibiting Entry or Presence in Public Buildings While Carrying Firearms: having been properly posted/published, the Ordinance was adopted by motion: BF/JP 5A MC

E. Responsibilities of Town Administrator: Glenn Carlson suggested working sessions that begin with laying out the process [including who will be involved in the process] and creating a timeline of events leading up to and including the first day of work for the new administrator. The first working session was

scheduled for January 17, 2012 at 5:00 PM. [to include Administrative Assistant Barb Nelson, the Town Board, and volunteer Glenn Carlson.]

F. Department Head Reviews: postponed by consensus awaiting the new Town Administrator.

G. Motion to adopt the 2012 Budget in the amount of \$3,139,524: HR/BF 5A MC [Clerk's Note: the 2012 budget that was approved 12/13/11 used the 2012 Tax Levy amount of \$1,594,373.10 instead of using the actual 2012 total budget amount of \$3,139,524.]

XII. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- A. Final Report from JJR RE: Long Range Plan & Feasibility Study Overview
- B. Breakwall and Signage
- C. Parks
 - 1. Re-design of the comfort station to include the attendant's space
- D. Zoning Administrator's Memorandum dated 1/10/12 RE: corrections to the December Zoning Administrator's Report.
- E. Zoning Administrator's Annual Report for 2011

XIII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

XIV. Adjournment at 7:05 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk
Approved as submitted on 1/24/12